

Message Text

PAGE 01 PEKING 00236 110441Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 110400Z FEB 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1350

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

S E C R E T PEKING 236

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, CH

SUBJECT: JOINT DRUG CABINET COMMITTEE DECISION

REF: (A) STATE 24898, (B) GENEVA 0769, (C) STATE 25361

1. IN VIEW OF PRC'S DECISION NOT TO SEND AN OBSERVER TO THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF CND OPENING FEBRUARY 18 (B), WE QUESTION WHETHER NOW IS AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO MAKE FURTHER APPROACHES TO THE CHINESE ON THE QUESTION OF BECOMING A MEMBER OF CND AND ACCEDING TO THE SINGLE CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOL. WE AGREE THAT CND FRAMEWORK IS BEST FRAMEWORK FOR MAKING SUCH AN APPROACH AND FEEL THAT PEKING'S FAILURE TO SEND OBSERVER TO THIS SESSION IS SUFFICIENTLY NEGATIVE INDICATOR THAT IT BEST TO LET MATTER REST FOR THE TIME BEING. THIS JUDGMENT IS STRENGTHENED BY OUR ESTIMATE THAT DOMESTIC PRE-OCCUPATIONS ARISING FROM CURRENT IDEOLOGICAL CAMPAIGN AS WELL AS INCREASINGLY NATIONALISTIC LINE IN FOREIGN POLICY WOULD MAKE FORTH-COMING RESPONSE UNLIKELY.

2. SIMILAR CONSIDERATIONS GOVERN OUR VIEW THAT WE SHOULD HOLD OFF ON DISCUSSING THE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR BURMA WITH PRC UNTIL DISCUSSIONS WITH GUB HAVE PROCEEDED FURTHER. PRC IS LIKELY TO VIEW WITH SOME SUSPICION SUCH A PROGRAM AT ANY TIME GIVEN THEIR INVOLVEMENT WITH BURMESE INSURGENT ELEMENTS. DESPITE OUR
SECRET

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EXPLANATIONS PRC LIKELY WILL FORESEE DANGER THAT AIRCRAFT AND OTHER EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY US WILL BE USED BY GUB IN CONNECTION WITH ITS COUNTER-INSURGENCY EFFORTS. WE WILL, OF COURSE, HAVE TO INFORM THE PRC OF THIS PROGRAM SHOULD WE APPEAR TO BE MOVING

TOWARD AGREEMENT WITH GUB. IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE, HOWEVER, IF WE
COULD DO SO IN THE BROADER CONTEXT OF DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND
AT A POINT WHEN PRC IS SHOWING GREATER INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING
IN THOSE EFFORTS.

JENKINS

SECRET

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